



**PRESS RELEASE**  
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**For Immediate Release**

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**PANAMA EXPRESS DRUG KINGPIN FOUND GUILTY**

\_\_\_\_\_Tampa, FL - After a four month trial, a federal jury today found JOAQUIN MARIO VALENCIA-TRUJILLO of Colombia, guilty on all four counts which included his participation in a Continuing Criminal Enterprise, Conspiracy to Import Cocaine, Conspiracy to Possess with Intent to Distribute Cocaine and Conspiracy to Engage in Money Laundering. Valencia-Trujillo faces a minimum mandatory sentence of 20 years' imprisonment up to 40 years' imprisonment. A sentencing day has been set for February 1, 2007.

After being indicted on August 22, 2002, Valencia-Trujillo was extradited to the United States from Colombia on March 19, 2004. Trial testimony and court documents revealed that Valencia-Trujillo operated as a key member of the infamous Cali cartel since the early 1990s and transported more than 100 tons of cocaine annually to the United States.

Participating in Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force (OCDETF) Operation Panama Express are; The United States Coast Guard (USCG); The Joint

Interagency Task Force South (JIATFS); Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA); Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE); Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI); The Internal Revenue Service (IRS); The U. S. Attorney's Office; Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) and the Sheriff's Offices from Pinellas, Hillsborough and Sarasota Counties. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Joseph K. Ruddy and Maria Chapia - Lopez of the Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force for the Middle District of Florida.

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